



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MARCH 18, 1985

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NEWS RELEASE

August 17, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Marine purse seine test fisheries indicate declining migration of Fraser sockeye over the past several days. DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser River sockeye currently migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait is approximately 2% Early Summer-run, 70% Summer-run, and 28% Late-run sockeye. The diversion rate of Fraser River sockeye through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated at 21%. Estimates of sockeye passage in the Fraser River past the Mission hydroacoustic site have been at moderate levels over the last several days. The estimated total Fraser sockeye catches to-date are provided in the attached table.

At the meeting today, the Panel increased the run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye from 180,000 to 185,000 fish with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 4, which is five days later than forecast. The run size estimate of 550,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated 50% marine timing of Early Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be July 16, which is the timing that was expected during pre-season planning. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 16 is 496,000 fish.

At the meeting on August 14, the Panel reduced the run size estimate for Summer-run sockeye from 1,585,000 fish to 1,300,000 fish and at the meeting today this estimate was unchanged. The estimated 50% marine timing of Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be August 2, which is one day later than expected. DNA analyses continue to indicate that Chilko sockeye are the dominant Summer-run stock this season. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 16 is 878,000 fish.

At the meeting today the Panel approved an increase in the run size estimate of 200,000 Late-run sockeye to 250,000 fish. The estimated 50% marine timing of Late-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be August 5, which is six days earlier than expected. DNA analyses indicate that the Birkenhead and Weaver stock-groups are contributing nearly all of the Late-run sockeye currently migrating through the marine assessment areas. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 16 is 167,000 fish.

On August 16 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 3,900 cms, which is approximately 11% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 16 was 18.2⁰C, which is 0.6⁰C higher than average for this date. The Panel manages fisheries to provide additional Fraser sockeye above the spawning escapement targets through application of management adjustments. The management adjustments help ensure that the escapement targets are met, which off-sets en route mortality and other factors that could affect meeting spawning escapement targets. At the meeting on August 14, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved an increase in the management adjustment factor for Summer-run sockeye

from the pre-season forecast of 0.06 to 0.09 and at the meeting today this estimate was unchanged.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 16 reported that Early Stuart sockeye are nearing their peak die-off period in most tributaries. There have been two sockeye counted through the Scotch Creek enumeration fence to-date. Visual surveys have recently begun on North and South Thompson, Raft and lower Fraser stocks. The Gates Creek spawning channel operator has counted 15 sockeye into the channel and 2,241 sockeye into the creek above the channel to-date. The Chilko DIDSON enumeration system indicates moderate migration of sockeye thus far. A total of 38 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence to-date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

(Note: U. S. All Citizen fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

The Pacific Salmon Commission reports daily test fishing catches of sockeye salmon on its recorded message at (604) 666-8200 and on the internet at: http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections. In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye catch and escapement data and sockeye and salmon stock status reports will be available on this website.

United States fishing schedules during the season will be available for Treaty Indian fisheries through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at 1-800-562-6142. Non-Indian fishing schedules will be available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle at 1-800-662-9825. Canadian commercial fishing regulations will be announced on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded message at 604-666-2828 (from the lower B.C. mainland), and toll free from outside the lower B.C. mainland at 1-866-431-3474, and via fishery notices. Consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations pertaining to species other than sockeye salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 21. News releases in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon runs.

2012 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 12 - Aug. 18, 2012

Date: Aug. 17, 2012

Area	Gear	Catch				
Commercial Catch						
Canada						
A & C Areas 1-10	Net	0				
F Areas 1-10	Troll	0				
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll	0				
B Areas 11-16	PS	0				
D Areas 11-13	GN	0				
H Areas 12-16	Troll	0				
H Areas 18-29	Troll	0				
B Area 20	PS	0				
B Area 29	PS	0				
E Area 29	GN	0				
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo		0				
Canadian Total		0				
United States						
Alaska	Net&Troll	0				
Washington						
TI Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	13,760				
TI Areas 6/7/7A	Net	58,510				
AC Areas 7/7A	Net	32,240				
Washington Total		104,510				
U.S. Total		104,510				
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test		25,590				
PSC non-Panel Area Test		6,860				
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)		288,050				
Marine Aboriginal		37,640				
Recreational		0				
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)		1,810				
U.S. TI Ceremonial		5,870				
ESSR		0				
Non-comm. Total		365,820				
Catch and Escapement						
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Total	
Catch Accounted-to-date	10,130	71,760	352,090	36,340	470,330	
Potential Spawning Escapement to date*	174,700	456,370	728,510	162,800	1,522,370	
Total Accounted-to-date	184,830	528,130	1,080,600	199,140	1,992,700	
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target **	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
Early Stuart		185,000	182,500	600	183,100	99%
Early Summer		471,200	496,000	12,600	508,600	108%
Summer		1,094,200	877,800	64,200	942,000	86%
	Quesnel/Chilko/N.Thompson		375,700	30,100		
	L.Stu./Stel.		365,100	26,100		
	Harrison		137,000	8,000		
Late		250,000	167,100	11,000	178,100	71%
	Birkenhead		108,200	7,100		
	Adams/L.Shuswap		1,700	200		
	Weav/L.Misc.		57,200	3,700		